NUMB. CCCXLII.

The SPECTATOR.

Justitiæ partes sunt non violare homines: Verecundiæ, non offendere. Tull.

Wednesday, April 2. 1712.

AS Regard to Decency is a great Rule of Life in general, but more especially to be consulted by the Female World; I cannot overlook the following Letter, which describes an egregious Offender.

'MR. SPECTATOR,

'Was this Day looking over your Papers; and reading in that of *December* 6th with great delight, the amiable Grief of *Asteria* for the absence of her Husband, it threw me into a great deal of Reflection. I cannot say but this case very much from the Circumstances of my own Life, who am a Soldier, and expect every day to receive Orders; which will oblige me to leave behind me a Wife that is very dear to me, and that very deservedly. She is, at present, I am sure, no way below your *Asteria* for Conjugal affection: But I see the Behaviour of some Women so little suited to the Circumstances wherein a Wife and I shall soon be, that it is with a Reluctance I never knew before, I am going to my Duty. What puts me to present Pain, is the Example of a young Lady, whose Story you shall have as well as I can give it you. *Hortensius*, an Officer of good Rank in Her Majesty's Service, happened in a certain Part of *England* to be brought to a Country-Gentleman's House, where he was recived with that more than ordinary Welcome, with which Men of domestick Lives entertain such few Soldiers whom a military Life, and the Variety of Adventures, has not rendered over-bearing, but humane, easy, and agreeable. *Hortensius* stay'd here some Time, and had daily Access at all Hours, as well as unavoidable Conversation at some Parts of the Day with the beautiful *Sylvana*, the Gentleman's Daughter. People who live in Cities are wonderfully struck with every little Country Aboad they see when they take the Air; and 'tis natural to such to fancy they could live in every neat Cottage (by which they pass) much happier than in their present Circumstances. The turbulent way of Life which *Hortensius* was used to, made him reflect with much Satisfaction on all the Advantages of a sweet Retreat one Day; and among the rest, he'll think it not improbable, it might enter into his Thought, that such a Woman as *Sylvana* would consummate the Happiness. The World is so debauched with mean Considerations, that *Hortensius* knew it would be received as an Act of Generosity, if he asked for a Woman of the highest Merit, without further Questions, of a Parent who had nothing to add to her personal Qualifications. The Wedding was celebrated at her Father's House. When that was over, the generous Husband did not proportion his Provision for her to the Circumstances of her Fortune, but considered his Wife as his Darling, his Pride, and his Vanity; or rather that it was in the Woman he had chosen that a Man of Sense could shew Pride or Vanity with any Excuse, and therefore adorned her with rich Habits and valuable Jewels. He did not however omit to admonish her that he did his very utmost in this, that it was an Ostentation he could not but be guilty of to a Woman he had so much Pleasure in, desiring her to consider it as such; and begged of her also to take these Matters rightly, and believe the Gems, the Gown, the Laces, would still become her better, if her Air and Behaviour was such, that it might appear she dressed thus rather in Complyance to his Humour that Way, than out of any Value she herself had for the Trifles. To this Lesson, too hard for Woman, *Hortensius* added, that she must be sure to stay with her Friends in the Country till his Return. Assoon as *Hortensius* departed, *Sylvana* saw in her Looking-glass that the Love he conceived for her was wholly owing to the Accident of seeing her; and she is convinced it was only her Misfortune the rest of Mankind had not beheld her, or Men of much greater Quality and Merit had contended for one so genteel, tho' bred in Obscurity; so very witty, tho' never acquainted with Court or Town. She therefore resolved not to hide so much Excellence from the World, but without any Regard to the Absence of the most generous Man alive, she is now the gayest Lady about this Town, and has shut out the Thoughts of her Husband by a constant Retinue of the vainest young Fellows this Age has produced; to entertain whom she squanders away all *Hortensius* is able to supply her with, tho' that Supply is purchased with no less Difficulty than the Hazard of his Life.

'Now, Mr. SPECTATOR, would it not be a Work becoming your Office, to treat this Criminal as she deserve? You should give it the severest Reflexions you can: You should tell Women, that they are more accountable for behaviour in absence, then after Death. The dead are not dishonoured by their Levities; the living may return, and be laughed at by empty Fops; who will not fail to turn into Ridicule the good Man, who is so unseasonable as to be still alive, and come and spoil good Company.

I am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant.

All strictness of behaviour is so unmercifully laughed at in our Age, that the other much worse Extreme is the more common Folly. But let any Woman consider which of the two Offences an Husband would the more easily forgive, that of being

ing less entertaining than she could to please Company, or raising the desires of the whole Room to his disadvantage; and she will easily be able to form her Conduct: We have indeed carryed Womens Characters too much into publick Life, and you shall see them now a-Days affect a sort of Fame: But I cannot help venturing to disoblige them for their service, by telling them, that the utmost of a Woman's Character is contained in Domestick Life; she is Blameable or Praise-worthy according as her carriage affects the House of her Father or her Husband. All she has to do in this World, is contained within the Duties of a Daugher, a Sister, a Wife, and a Mother: All these may be well performed tho' a Lady should not be the very finest Woman at an Opera, or an Assembly. They are likewise consistent with a moderate share of Wit, a plain Dress, and a modest Air. But when the very Brains of the Sex are turned, and they place their Ambition on Circumstances wherein to excell, 'tis no addition to what is trully Commendable. Where can this end, but as it frequently does in their placing all their Industry, Pleasure and Ambition on things, which will naturally make the Gratifications of Life last, at best no longer than Youth and good Fortune? And when we consider the least ill Consequence, it can be no less, than looking on their own condition as Years advance, with a disrelish of Life, and falling into Contempt of their own Persons, or being the derision of others. But when they consider themselves, as they ought, no other than an additional Part of the Species, (for their own Happiness and Comfort, as well that of those for whom they were born) their Ambition to excell will be directed accordingly; and they will in no part of their Lives want Opportunities of being shining Ornaments to their Fathers, Husbands, Brothers or Children.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There being a small Number left of the LUCUBRATIONS *of* ISAAC BICKERSTAFF, *Esq; printed upon Royal and Medium Paper, in 4 Vol. 8vo. they are now to be sold by* J. Tonson, W. Taylor, J. Round, R. Knaplock, N. Cliff, Ra. Smith, G. Strahan, R. Parker, D. Midwinter, B. Tooke, J. Wyat, D. Browne, E. Sanger, H. Clements, O. Lloyd, C. Lillie, *and* J. Morphew.

N. B. Those who have the First and Second Volumes, may be furnished with the Third and Fourth to compleat their Set, by the Persons above.

The Boarding-School for young Gentlewomen, which was formerly kept on Mile-End Green, *being laid down, there is now one set up almost opposite to it at the two Golden-Balls, and much more convenient in every Respect; where, beside the common Instructions given to young Gentlewomen, they will be taught the whole Art of Paistrey and Preserving, with whatever may render them accomplished.*

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.
For the Benefit of Mrs. Oldfield.
By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Thursday, the 3d Day of April, will be presented the last reviv'd Play, call'd, The Humorous Lieutenant. Written by Beaumont and Fletcher. By her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's-Head, over against Katherine-Street in the Strand.

A Collection of extraordinary original Pictures by Nicolas Poussin, Gaspar Poussin, Salvator Rosa, F. Lauro, Carlo Marat, Vandyck, and several other excellent Masters; will be sold by Auction at Mr. Gonge's Dwelling-house, at the Golden Head in the Little Piazza in Covent-Garden, this Day, being the 2d of April; where Catalogues may be had.

A Consort of Musick Vocal and Instrumental will be performed at Stationer's-Hall on Friday the 4th of this instant April, at 6 of the Clock in the Evening; where Mr. Leveridge and Mr. Romondon will give an Entertainment of a new Song not yet published. The Tickets delivered for Mr. Lawrence's Consort for the 3d and 6th of March last will be received.

A Consort of Italian Musick,
For the Benefit of Signior Giacomo Courti,

Wednesday the 9th instant, wherein at the desire of several Persons of Quality, there will be Performance by Sig. Cavl. Valentini Pellegrini Virtuoso of S. A. Ser. Electoral Pallatino, it being the first time of his Singing since his Arrival in England. There will be timely Notice given where Tickets may be had.

TO BE LETT.

A large convenient fashionable House, known by the Sign of the black Lyon, in the Strand fronting Catherine-Street and adjoining to Sommerset-house Water-gate, the back Part has a fine Prospect on the River Thames, and several Miles into Surrey. Now in the Occupation of a Woollen-Draper, and fit for the Wholesale Trade. Inquire of Mr. Leventhorp next Door, or at Mills's in Bread-street.

From the Office against the Sieve Ale-house in the Little-Minories, where Proposals at large may be had gratis. This is to give Notice, that at the Request of several Subscribers will be opened on Thursday the 3d of April a new 20 s. Book at 100 per Cent for the first 500 that enters, to receive in 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Weeks at the farthest, and no Person to pay more than 5 s. The Books that were opened the 3d of March last at the Office aforesaid, have met with such great Incouragement that they are shut up, and will so continue to the 7th of April; at which and Place fresh Subscriptions will be taken in on the form that

At East-Acton in Middlesex, is to be Lett, a good House 4 Rooms on a Floor, with Coach-house, Stables, Orchard, Garden, all in very good Repair. Inquire at Mr. Lamb's at Acton or at his House in Lombard-street.

Mr. Van Nost's Collection of Plaister Figures and Models, of Flemingo, Algard, John de Bellono, the old and young Quellin; Abundance of Models of Monuments and Figures of Mr. Van Nost, and other eminent Masters (it being a large and most extraordinary Collection) will be sold by Auction at his Dwelling-house in Hide-Park-Road near the Queen's Mead-house where the Collection may be seen every Day this Week, and on Monday the 7th of April following. The Sale will begin each Day at 4 in the Afternoon, and continue daily till all are sold, designing to sell 100 Lots every Evening. After this Sale, the fine Marble Figures and Busto's, curious inlaid Marble Tables, Brass and Leather Figures, and very rich Vauses. N. B. For this Part of the Collection there will be Catalogues printed, and a low Price set to every Lot that the Widow may not run too great a Risque in things of Consequence. The Pictures, Drawings, and Prints will also be sold.

This is to give Notice to all Gentlemen, Ladies and others, That the remaining Part of the Glasses that were left at the Auction at the black Bull and Looking-Glass in Cornhill consisting of several very fine and large Glasses in carved and Frames and Glass Frames, and all sorts of arched Hanging-Glasses Peer and Chimney Glasses, and Dressing-Glasses: With the Price mark'd upon each Glass.

For SALE by RETALE. At one of the Vaults under the Tennis-Court in James-street, and next to the Blue-Post in the Hay-Market, is to be sold by Retale new and Port and Viana Wines of the last Vintage, lately landed, the neatural Oporto Wine at 6 s. a Gallon, or 18 d. a Quart, and the new at 5 s. 6 d. a Gallon, or 18 d. a Quart, Dry Mountain Malaga white Lisbon Wine at 7 s. a Gallon, or 2 s. a Quart, Brandy 12 s. a Gallon, and Portugal Brandy at 10 s. a Gallon very good new French Claret Wine of the last Vintage, sold cheap

Notice is hereby given, that at Mr. Watkins's Mountain-Vault in Queen's Head Yard near the St. James's street, is sold by Retale excellent new Mountain Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 1 s. 9 d. per Quart; being a Parcel, just landed, and of the best Growth in Spain.

Yesterday was published,

The Judgment of the Church of England in the Case of Lay-Baptism and of Dissenters Baptism. Sold by Baldwin near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-Lane. Price 6 d.

Just Published, in a small Volume in 12ves.

The Examiners for the Year 1711. To which is prefix'd a Letter to the Examiner. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationer's-Hall, and A. Dod at the Peacock without Temple-Bar.

Mr. Paul Girard, at the 3 Flower-de-luces in Charing-Cross near Northumberland-House, hath lately received from a Friend of his in Italy a small Quantity of very rich distilled Waters, made by Trofeme Ribiqui, Distiller to his Royal Highness the Duke of Savoy: Every Chest containing 24 Bottles (a small Quart) and consists only of the 4 most select Sorts, i. e. Jasmin, Orangiat, Burgamot, and Perficot; and are all of a distilled Spirit, and drawn off in the same Manner as the Citron-Water of Barbadoes, which they excell in every Quality: And may be had every Day at the House of the said Mr. Paul Girard, and sold by him, in order for a quick Sale, only at 3 Guineas per Chest. N. B. There hath been none of this in England, except in Presents 5 Years past.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* the *Strand*.